

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1 and 3-13 are all the claims pending in the Application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the receipt of priority documents submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Additionally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the drawings filed on September 18, 2004.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly reciting limitations lacking sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant hereby amends these claims based on the Examiner's comments, and respectfully submits that the limitations pointed out by the Examiner do not lack sufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these rejections.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant hereby amends claim 11 based on the Examiner's comments, and respectfully submits that the claim now recites sufficient structure. However, in the event that the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant expeditiously in order to efficiently resolve any remaining issues.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 stands objected to by the Examiner due to certain formalities. Applicant hereby amends claim 12 based on the Examiner's comments, and respectfully submits that the

scope and meaning of claim 12 is sufficiently clear to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 9.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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